



Athletes scramble
at Hunter golf
course
See Page 1C



Spc. Ben Hutto

Staff Sgt. John Zamarripa, a squad leader for 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, provides security during a combat patrol in the Mada'in Qada. Zamarripa received the Silver Star medal for his action during an ambush on his platoon Oct. 30, 2007. Zamarripa helped coordinate a counter attack after the lead Bradley Fighting Vehicle in his combat patrol was damaged during an improvised explosive attack.

Troops earn Silver Star

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING – Neither Staff Sgt. John Zamarripa nor Capt. Ross Pixler consider themselves heroes, despite the fact both men were awarded Silver Star medals for valor.

If either man is asked about the day they earned their awards, both will say they were just doing their jobs and credit the men around them.

While many Soldiers in Company A, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, consider their modesty part of what makes them good

Soldiers and leaders, most of them think that Pixler and Zamarripa are deserving of the U.S. Army's second highest award.

During a combat patrol outside of Salman Pak, Iraq, Oct. 30, 2007, Pixler, Zamarripa and their fellow Soldiers in third platoon were attacked by insurgent forces.

A deep-buried Improvised Explosive Device, exploded under the lead vehicle. The blast pushed the floor of the up-armored vehicle up, killing three Soldiers and injuring Pixler, his gunner and the driver of the vehicle.

See STAR _____ Page 18A

Single-Soldier program wins Army competition

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield's single-Soldier program made its mark at the Department of the Army 2008 Better Opportunity for Single Soldier Conference held at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne, Va., Aug. 3-9. Winning second place for "Best Event" in the Extra Large Installation category, the installation's BOSS program showed

that quality of life for Soldiers is a priority.

Soldiers and members of Stewart-Hunter BOSS placed approximately 6,000 welcome home gift baskets in the barracks rooms of redeploying single Soldiers and geographical bachelors. These baskets provided Soldiers with 72 hours of basic necessities such as a toothbrush, tooth paste, mouth wash, soap, hand sanitizer, snacks, and laundry detergent.

See BOSS _____ Page 11A

Safety remains paramount, Safety Day returns Aug 26

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

The 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety is coming to a close Labor Day weekend, but safety continues year-round at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. Maintaining its safety-first mission, the installation will host a post-wide safety day, Aug. 26.

Soldiers and civilians are invited to an array of safe-

ty demonstrations at the motorcycle training range adjacent to the Installation Safety Office, building 162.

In addition to motorcycle and privately owned vehicle safety and Fort Stewart's Fire Department and Police Department demonstrations, the event will also host hunting safety with a hands-on rifle and shotgun demonstration. Also, the American Automobile Association will be on site to help install your child's safety seat properly and to check for any

product recalls.

It's hurricane season and safety officials on hand will teach you how to take preventive measures and prepare yourself in the event of a severe storm. A severe weather preparedness guide will be available to take home.

All of this and more begins at 10 a.m.

For more Safety Day information, call the Installation Safety Office at 767-9441.

Watch for the latest news
and severe weather
updates on Marne
Television.

See related information on page 4A

Warrior Transition Unit changes affecting few Wounded Warriors

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

Fears that new changes to the Army's Warrior Transition program would lead to drastic purging of Soldiers currently assigned to Warrior Transition Units are unwarranted, according to 3rd Infantry Division Surgeon, Lt. Col. Edward Michaud.

"We haven't made a final decision on any Soldiers," Michaud said, explaining his role as the Division Surgeon makes him responsible for the health of the Division, and as an advisor to the Division commander, he preferred to err on the side of the Soldier. "This is going to be a process,

not a one-time decision."

Michaud said a very short list of Soldiers nominated by the "triad of care"– WTU squad leaders, nurse case managers and primary care managers – has been submitted for review to the "triad of leadership" – installation, medical and WTU chain of command.

He said after the leaders have reviewed the medical records of these Soldiers, 3rd Infantry Division and installation Commander Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo will personally review their records and decide if any or all of these Soldiers will remain assigned to the WTU or return to their unit.

See WTU _____ Page 11A



Jimmy McSalters

'Heart of the Rock' brings home Colors

Third Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Darrell Williams (left), Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. Johnson, and approximately 150 "Heart of the Rock" Soldiers brought home their brigade Colors after a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to a welcome home ceremony at Fort Stewart's Cottrell Field, Aug. 16. See story on Page 3A.



Local
organizations
support post
partnership
See Page 4B

Make your vote count
See Page 9B

Annual
festival attracts
thousands to
Brooklet
See Page 1B



Moments in Marne History: Real life Rosie the Riveters share World War II memories

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

"Rosie the Riveter" is a cultural icon representing the six million American women who entered the workforce for the first time in support of the allied war effort during World War II. Many of these ladies worked in manufacturing plants producing everything from munitions to materials like armor plating. Michealina Kishton Sexton, 90, and Mary Andrako Kishton, 89, were a couple of "Rosies," though they'd never describe themselves as icons or legends.

Sexton worked for the Atlas Powder Company, Ravenna Arsenal in Ravenna, Ohio from 1942 to 1945.

Her plant manufactured thousands of tons of artillery shells and aerial-delivered munitions. She mixed TNT, operated a forklift and served as a shift leader, working seven days a week, sometimes sleeping on the factory floor rather than going home. Not only did her plant successfully integrate women into its workforce, she was also part of one of the first racially integrated workforces.

"I started out mixing TNT, but my blood couldn't take it," Sexton said, explaining the toxicity of the volatile mixture then listing various other jobs she worked around the plant. "That's when I started driving a forklift, moving wooden pallets loaded with bombs."

Sexton said no special safety precautions were made to palletize the munitions. They were simply stacked on a wooden pallet, which she moved as carefully as she could, sometimes having to drive up and down truck ramps not much wider than her forklift. She maintained her vigilance and continued to support the war effort, despite the loss of a nephew who was killed during the war. A brother and another nephew were critically injured. After the war, she went on to marry her husband of nearly 40 years. Her son, Col. Charles Sexton recently took command of the 2nd BCT. Her brother, Pfc. Mark Kishton served with the 3rd Infantry Division from 1943 to

1945 in North Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

Mary Kishton, Michealina's sister-in-law and best friend, married Mark in 1941 before the war began. In fact, Michealina introduced them while Mary was working for a raincoat factory. The Great Depression was still going on in the early 1940's, and jobs were scarce.

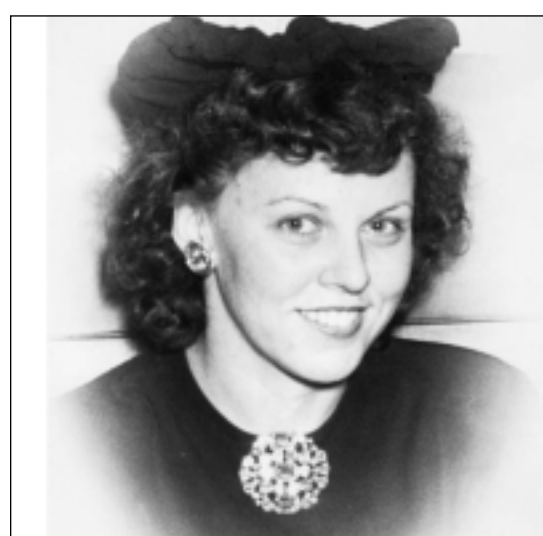
"It was the only work I could find after I graduated from high school," Kishton said, explaining that as soon as the war began, additional work opportunities became available. "They needed workers because the men were gone. I went to work for Truscan Steel Company, making parts for tanks and airplanes."

When her husband was drafted and sent to Camp McClellan, Ala., she took time off and rented a room in a boarding house, so she could be close to him until he shipped out. Returning to Ohio when her husband deployed, she submerged herself totally in supporting the war. She said she often imagined the tank track or armor plating for bombers that she was working on was the one that her husband and his buddies needed to keep them alive. She knew the work she did was essential to the war effort. She re-united with her husband in December 1945, after he was mustered out of the Army. They've now been married 67 years.

The millions of women like Michealina Sexton and Mary Kishton who filled non-traditional roles in manufacturing jobs helped the allies win World War II. Their "We can do it!" attitude won the war on the homefront as surely as the indomitable spirit of America's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen won the war in Europe and the Pacific.

Courtesy photos

"Rosie the Riveter" came to symbolize the strength of women supporting the World War II war effort due in part to women like Michealina Sexton (left) and Mary Kishton (Right).



Suicide hurts Families, Army

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

Sometimes the hurting is deep inside, not inside the head or even the heart but the soul itself.

Clinically, this kind of hurting may be called depression. Whatever it's called, it's sometimes so real to those who experience it, desperation causes them to attempt to stop the hurting by taking their own life. And despite the words to a Hollywood movie and popular TV series' theme song, suicide is not painless.

The hurting that led them to suicide immediately passes to their Family and loved ones. And if that person is a Soldier, it hurts the whole Army Family.

According to a Pentagon Channel, May 29 article by Al Pessin, 115 Soldiers committed suicide last year with two suspicious deaths still under investigation. Even though his report noted the military suicide rate is lower than the civilian suicide rate for people the same age and education level, Army officials said the rate is too high.

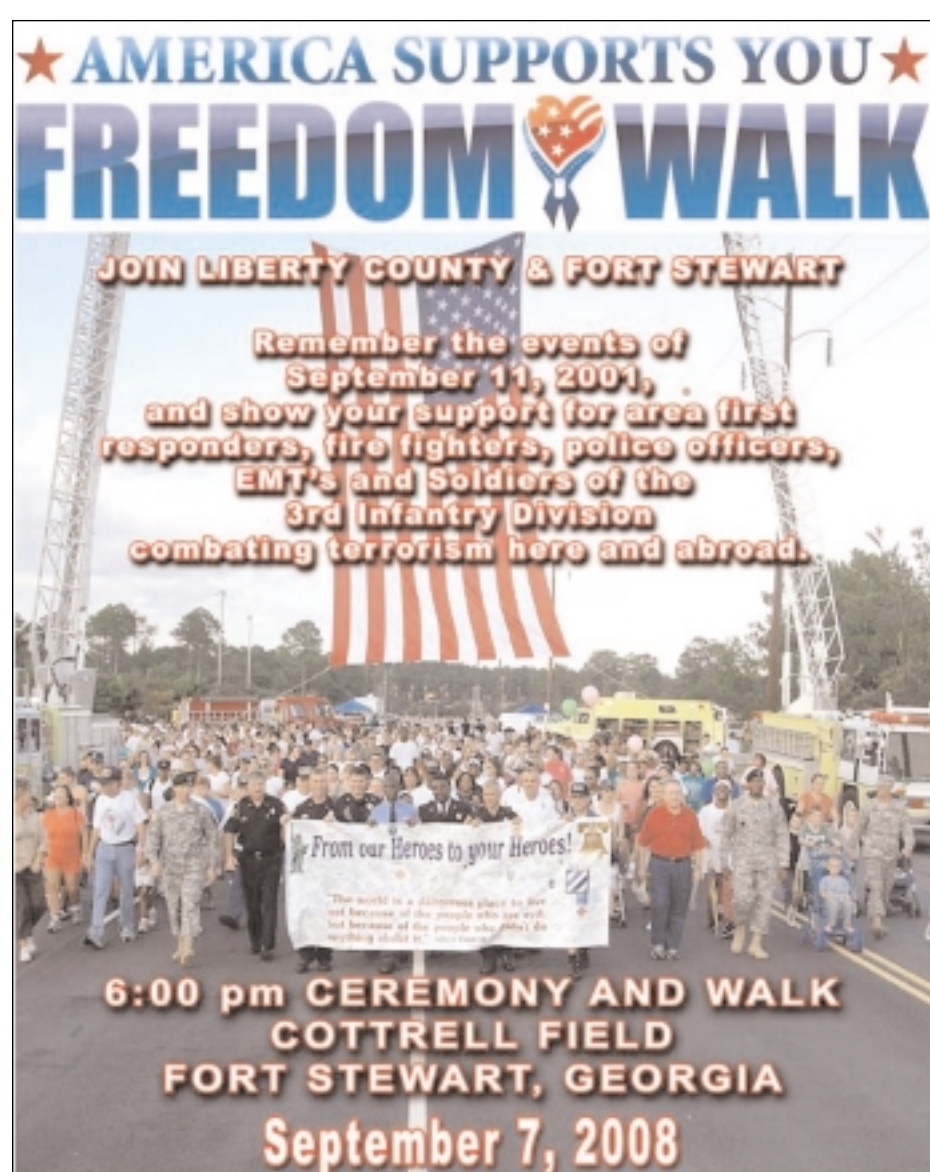
Soldiers experience some of the same personal problems as civilians – marital, financial, professional – but in a time of war, long and frequent deployments away from love ones and the horrors of war itself compound personal issues. According to Pessin's article though, more than a quarter of the Soldiers who committed suicide last year had never deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. The Army is aware of these varying factors and is taking actions to prevent suicide.

September 7-13 is Suicide Prevention Week, and World Suicide Prevention Day is September 10. The Army wants you to know about these observances. Soldiers, Family members and Department of the Army civilians at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield can expect to be reminded that tough times quite often take place off the battlefield. Leaders, battle buddies and Family members need to be aware of what's going on "inside" that subordinate, co-worker or spouse. These prevention observances are intended to make the Army Family aware of programs, training and resources that are available to assist in suicide preven-

tion. One of the briefings first line leaders are likely to receive is called, "Shoulder to Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone." Leaders will be told to be more aware of what's going on with their Soldiers and intervene with assistance or know where to send a Soldier for assistance, including the unit chaplain or local church and even mental health care. The Army is trying to reduce the stigma of seeking mental health care and encourage Soldiers and their Families to learn about and make use of suicide prevention programs. The overall objective is to reduce suicidal behavior in the Army.

Part of the above briefing includes a statement that says, "Suicide prevention is about Soldiers taking care of Soldiers." The Army and installation leaders are aware of the unique stresses placed on Soldiers and their Families. Army life is not like the civilian world, and the Army community is not like other communities. Briefings, public service announcements and posters will be encouraging everyone in the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield community to get involved in suicide prevention.

It's part of the Army culture and Warrior's ethos to take care of its own. When a Soldier hurts, his or her battle buddies and Family should know about it and be ready to help. When a Soldier hurts, he or she needs to know it's okay to ask for help.



Remember 9/11 with Freedom Walk, Sept 7

Pat Young
Managing Editor

On Sept. 7, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will once again join the growing effort to honor the Soldiers, veterans, and first responders who gave their lives in service on 9/11 and every day since in the Global War on Terrorism.

The America Supports You Freedom Walk is a national effort held to demonstrate support and increase awareness of why it's important to remain vigilant and dedicated to the memory of the first responders to the tragedy that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001 and the heroes who have

lost their lives in the Global War on Terrorism.

The walk honors the sacrifices made by emergency responders, Soldiers, Veterans, communities across America, and their Families.

Last year, as a testament to the defense of freedom, more than 800 community members participated, beginning their solemn trek on Stewart's Warrior's Walk, a grove of memorial Eastern Redbud trees, which now honor 414 fallen Marne heroes who gave their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This year's event will once again start on Cottrell Field as communities come together in fellowship.



Jimmy McSalters

About 150 Third Sustainment Brigade Soldiers returned to Fort Stewart, Aug. 16 following the unit's 15-month deployment to Iraq.

Sustainment Bde Colors return

Kevin Larson
Chief Public Information

The colors of the 3rd Infantry Division's Sustainment Brigade returned to Fort Stewart during an early morning welcome home ceremony Aug. 16 at Cottrell Field during an early morning return. The brigade commander, Col. Darrell Williams, and 150 Sustainment Brigade Soldiers were greeted

by about 250 friends and Family at the ceremony. The brigade is returning home after a 15-month deployment to northern Iraq, where it provided logistics support for 25th Infantry and 1st Armor division units. Third Infantry Division commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, welcomed the Soldiers home and expressed his pride in their accomplishments in the Global War on Terrorism.

"You were the muscle that pumped the life into the combat units of Iraq," Cucolo said. "Standing before you is an incredibly proud division, incredibly proud community, and Family members who have waited oh-so-too-long. We are glad to have you back." About 220 Sustainment Brigade Soldiers returned in previous welcome home ceremonies held earlier this month.



Jimmy McSalters

Sgt. Jason Nerti, HHC, 3rd Sustainment Bde is greeted by his Family Aug. 16 on Cottrell Field following his units return from a 15-month deployment to Iraq.



Randy Murray

Families wait in the early morning hours Aug. 16 at Cottrell Field for the return of their Sustainment Bde heroes.



Randy Murray

Family and friends cheer Saturday morning as the buses carrying 150 3rd Inf. Div. Sustainment Bde. Soldiers drive past Cottrell Field moments before a welcome home ceremony for the Soldiers. The brigade was deployed for 15-months to northern Iraq where it provided logistical support to combat units there.



Randy Murray

Joshua Dillon, 18-months, waits with his mother, Nicole for his returning father, Sgt. Jamie Dillon, who returned Aug. 16 to Cottrell Field, following an 15-month deployment to Iraq.



Jimmy McSalters

Third Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Darrell Williams is greeted by his Family Aug. 16, following a 15-month deployment to Iraq.

Barracks life: All parties are not the same

Commentary
Sgt. Sherick Watkins
Frontline Contributor

There are many expressions or military jargon that Soldiers will learn while serving in the military. The military has many unique expressions that include just words as military brat, File 13, GI, and civies.

The words aren't derogatory, just common military slang. Military brat refers to a child of a military servicemember; File 13, a trash can, which is also often referred to as the circular file; G.I. stands for government issue often referring to an American servicemember; and civies or civilian clothes, and so on.

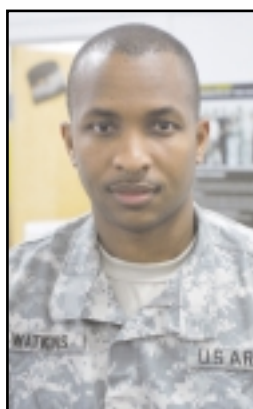
But one of the most endearing to those living in the barracks is the G.I. Party. You may ask what exactly is a G.I.

Party? Is it a party where G.I.'s get together and have fun? Is it a celebration or a common get together? Nah, it is none of the above.

A G.I. party is actually a massive "policing," cleaning of an office or barracks. Usually, the G.I. party is followed by an inspection.

I can remember in basic training we would have our G.I. parties and the inspection would follow, which no one ever passed, thus followed by laps around the training field and grass drills in the pit.

This is very typical of living in the barracks. In basic training it's like an acclimation into the Army. Soldiers, Sailors,



Marines, and Airmen all go through the G.I. parties.

When I spoke to my father Jimmy Wright, a retired Airman, he stated that the drill instructors would ask for volunteers for "bunny patrol." When one of the Airmen volunteered he found out very quickly that he was tricked into it.

Bunny patrol entailed lying flat on your stomach and wiping dust and hair from under bunks and lockers; not as the name seemed to indicate, standing outdoors and watching for some fluffy tailed animals.

Then at that moment, I finally understood what a dust bunny was. I could remember seeing the little things of dust

gathered on the floor and people would refer to them as dust bunnies.

There are some things that can be done to minimized the time spent doing G.I. parties. The first is the clean latrine. This must be done everyday to prevent mildew. Also, you want to sweep, mop, and take the trash out everyday. And if everyone chips in and polices the hallways and around the barracks, it will also help keep a clean living area.

These simple things done everyday will keep your living areas clean and could eliminate the need for G.I. parties.

If you have a hobby or interesting barracks story you wouldn't mind sharing about "barracks-life," we would love to hear from you.

For more information, call the Frontline at 767-5669 or e-mail to Sherick.Watkins@us.army.mil.

Surviving after the storm, tales from Katrina

Commentary
Pat Young
Managing Editor

Tropical Storm Fay's rain and winds are quickly approaching Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, and may reach as far as Kelly Hill, home of the 3rd Brigade at Fort Benning.

As a survivor of Hurricane Kayrina in 2005, I understand the threat severe weather brings, such as tornados and flooding. So, I wanted to share a couple tips regarding surviving the aftermath of such disasters.

As a police officer during Hurricane Katrina, I was entrusted with the safekeeping of more than 300 people at a hurricane shelter in Gulfport, Miss. The shelter was operational for nearly three weeks following the initial impact of the storm.

Most people evacuated; however, they faced similar problems upon return, including damaged homes, power outages, and resource availability.

Most shelters were stocked with a quantity of water, food, batteries, and emergency medical supplies, but not enough for so many people for so long.

I realized many people planned for surviving the actual hurricane, not the aftermath. The major problems were the lack of communication, power, sanitation, medical supplies, fuel, and a need for 'normalcy.' Phone lines and towers were down, and power wasn't restored for more than a week in many areas.

To deal with the tragedy, we had to organize community efforts. The first priority was order. Everyone at the shelter was formed into work crews, sorted by capability with individuals trained in first aid helping care for the injured and other groups cleaning up gathering and

preparing food, sanitation and childcare.

Using propane and coal grills, perishable foods were cooked and served soonest. Water was collected and used two ways, boiled for use, and the rest for sanitation. Toilets were force flushed pouring flood water into basins or directly into the bowl to "force" a flush. This was critical with so many people living in a small area for so long. Childcare was also important because adults were needed to recover. We organized picnics and sports events like softball to provide a sense of 'normalcy.'

Overall, the storm was harsh, but surviving the aftermath was the biggest challenge.

In my experience, I've found it is safer to prepare for the worst than be ill prepared, so review the severe weather preparedness guide found online at www.stewart.army.mil.

Letter to the Editor DUI translates to under arrest

Dear Friends:

Whether you or a loved one has just returned from a long deployment far from home, or you're filling a vital role in a rear detachment or tenant activity, or if you've recently arrived from another installation, your safety and well being are very important to the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Community.

The U.S. celebrates Labor Day on Sept. 1 with many folks enjoying a four-day weekend beginning on Aug. 29. As you celebrate your long Labor Day weekend, please know that the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Directorate of Emergency Services is committed to ending the tragedy of impaired driving and continues to partner with neighboring law enforcement agencies for an intensive crackdown on impaired drivers. Law Enforcement officers will be out in abundance, on-post and off-post, actively seeking impaired drivers and if you're over the limit, you'll be under arrest.

Impaired driving is not only unnecessarily risky behavior that conveys potentially deadly consequences, it can also result in a number of severe punitive actions.

In addition to automatic revocation of your on-post driving privileges for at least 12-months and the possibility of disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, being arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in Georgia

could also result in civilian prosecution with the following penalties:

- A monetary fine of at least \$300.
- Jail time of up to 12-months.
- Community service of at least 20 hours.
- Completion of a State-approved DUI program at your expense.
- Suspension of Georgia driver's license for at least 120-days.

Additionally, always maintain awareness of other drivers and drive defensively, especially during the long weekend. Motorists are encouraged to safely report suspected impaired driving to Law Enforcement:

- Off-post, call the Georgia State Patrol by dialing *477. This free call connects you with the nearest GSP post to your location.
- On-post, call either the Fort Stewart Police Department at 767-4895 or the Hunter Army Airfield Police Department at 315-6133.

Let's all help make this Labor Day weekend the safest ever on our roadways. Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving. Think before you get behind the wheel and designate a sober driver. Call a friend, call a cab, or call your unit, but don't drink and drive!

Sincerely,

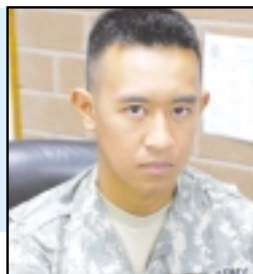
Sean W. Strate
*Director, Emergency Services and
Installation Provost Marshal*

Marne Voices Speak Out

Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001?

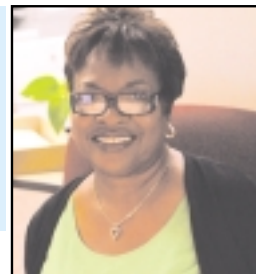
"I was getting ready for school and happened to hear it on the radio; it was crazy."

Pfc. Jonggy Simandjuntak
HHC, 2BCT



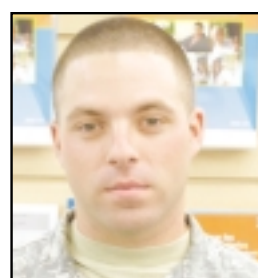
"I was here at Fort Stewart; it was terrible news, everyone was so confused."

Shirly Hollis
CIF



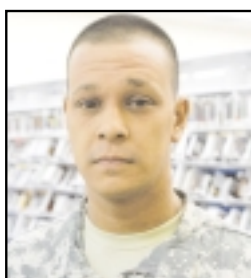
"I was at my parents watching tv when the second plane hit. I knew it was for real."

Spc. John McFerren
546th MP



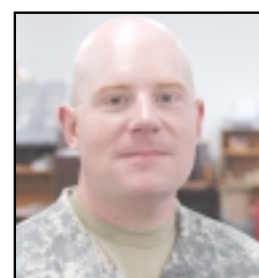
"I was in social studies class when an announcement was made, so class stopped so we could watch the news."

Sgt. Bradley Howard
HHC, 2/7 Inf.



"I remember getting ready for work when i turned on the news; it was terrible."

Spc. Adam Heffner
HHC, 2/7 Inf.



"I was in the Marine Corps trying to get on to base when I found out."

Spc. Dustin Gautney
HHC, 2nd BCT

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Veterans' Corner

-Still serving



Lance D. Davis

Public Affairs Specialist

Raymond Reiersen was a 20-year-old staff sergeant for the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1944 with the 92nd Bomb Group out of Rushton, England. On Sept. 22, he received a mission to bomb targets over Cassel, Germany. At an altitude of about 22,000 feet, the B17 he and his crew were in was shot down. The engine caught on fire. The pilot's leg was badly injured and he urged Reiersen and the others to bail out.

When Reiersen fell safely in the field, the Germans took him to jail and then on to Frankfurt, Germany to an interrogation center.

"They kept us there and questioned us for about three or four days," he said. "They knew more about me than I did."

Reiersen and other prisoners were taken to a Prisoner of War camp known as Stalag Luft IV, which consisted largely of U.S. Army Air Force bomber command non-commissioned officers. The worst was yet to come.

In February 1945, the Soviet offensive was successfully moving toward Stalag Luft IV. The German high command decided to evacuate the POW's and move them into Germany, but they did not have the adequate resources to move the prisoners according to Reiersen. Therefore, it was decided the prisoners would move by foot in a forced road march.

On Feb. 6, 1945, Reiersen began what would be a tedious, deadly journey. It was one of the coldest winters in Germany and about 7,000 prisoners moved out with the clothes on their backs. They were given very little food.

"It was horrible day," he said.

The prisoners' daily routine was walking, sleeping, freezing, and starving. They would march for two hours and were given breaks that were no longer than five minutes. In this short amount of time, it was expected that the prisoners would rest and relieve themselves.

"That was almost impossible to do," he explained.

Reiersen and other prisoners mostly slept in barns. The barns were so crowded with prisoners that everyone could not lie down. Some men would stand all night or even sleep outside. Although there was some straw for them lie down, the Germans forced them to lie in the filth from the barn or even in dampness.

Their meals consisted of bread, grain, and raw Kohlrabi, usually eaten while marching.

The prisoners did not have much opportunity to wash up. Because Reiersen and other men were walking and living in filth and lack of nutrition, several diseases like diphtheria, pneumonia, and malaria, developed.



Lance Davis

Raymond Reiersen, visits the Mighty-Eeighth Air Corce Museum and points to a picture of himself as young Soldier. He was captured by the Germans during World War II. Inset: An enloarged photo of young Reiersen.

"The most common disease was dysentery because of the filth we lived in and the unsanitary water we drank," he explained. "We also began to catch lice."

Reiersen suffered with weakness and sickness. He even recalls his shoes wearing and tearing and blisters on his feet. Nevertheless, like many others, Reiersen found the strength to keep going.

"Fortitude was what kept us going," he said. "We kept telling ourselves they can't beat us."

Reiersen also kept of a picture of his girlfriend, Laurel Lerohl, who later become his wife.

He was liberated on May 2 and sent to Camp Lucky Strike.

"I remember seeing some American flags and that

made me feel good," Reiersen said.

When he returned to the United States, Reiersen was honorably discharged. He went on to have a short-lived experience in the Marine Corps; however, he returned to the Army from 1947 to 1969, retiring as an aviation first sergeant at Hunter Army Airfield. In between that time, Reiersen provided selfless service in Korean and later during the Vietnam War.

He has been married to his wife, Laurel, for almost 60 years. They have five children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

When asked for words of encouragement for Soldiers at war, he said, "Stay in the eye of faith and don't give up on the Army."

Keep hold of helpful VA phone numbers

All Veterans and retirees should be aware of their benefits through Veterans Affairs and who to contact for various services. On Fort Stewart, your initial contacts are the Department of Veterans Affairs military service coordinators Richard Banks and Daniel Reeves. They are available to help veterans with every issue from Education benefits to Health care; their phone number is 368-6950. For more detailed information, the following phone contacts are available:

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000

Education 1-888-442-4551

Health Care 1-877-222-8387

Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477

Mental Health or referral services

(Savannah Vet Center) 652-4097

Debt Management 1-800-827-0648

Mammography Hotline 1-888-492-7844

CHAMPVA 1-800-733-8387

VASuicide Hotline 1-800-273-8255

Tele. Devices for Deaf 1-800-829-4823

Installation breaks prescribed burning record

Special to the Frontline

The U.S. Army's Fort Stewart Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division, Forestry Branch maintains a proactive prescribed burning program that is known by national fire experts to be one of the largest in the world.

Typically, Fort Stewart burns between 100,000 and 120,000 acres annually. One of the primary reasons for burning this much land is to improve and maintain the landscape for military training. This includes infantry maneuvers conducted throughout the landscape and live-fire weapons training. Other important reasons the installation burns include hazardous fuel reduction, endangered species habitat improvement, longleaf pine regeneration, brownspot needle blight control and suppression of undesirable hardwoods.

Of the 267,000 acres available for burning on Fort Stewart, 247,906 of those acres have been burned at least once during the last five years. Over a half-million acres have been successfully burned in those five years without a safety incident.

During the spring and summer months when thunderstorms most often occur, lightning strikes frequently ignite fires, and over the millennia, these

fires helped shape the natural communities of the longleaf ecosystem. Growing season burns, March 1 through Sept. 30 for this region, mimic this natural fire regime more closely than traditional dormant season burns. They also create more open space for military training and are more beneficial to wildlife habitat.

According to Jeff Mangun, Chief Forester for the Forestry Branch, the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem requires a frequent and regular burning regime, and the Forestry Branch strives to achieve a one to three-year fire return interval.

This past year, Fort Stewart broke a North American growing season prescribed burn record for the second time. They broke the record the first time in fiscal year 2005. To date, this year's growing season total of 80,433 acres has set another record and also exceeded the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan goal for the first time.

"They not only broke their own long standing record of acreage burned, but are thought to be the world's first or second largest prescribed burning program," said Clint Cross, the Fuels Program Manager with the U.S. Forest Service in Atlanta.

There are two important considerations that determine whether burning is possible, weather conditions and military training area access. The most important reasons the Forestry Branch burns are to enhance military training, keep people, property and resources safe from destructive wildfires, and improve wildlife habitat.

"By keeping the forests thinned and the underbrush low, we are creating and maintaining better conditions for military maneuverability. Concurrently, the burns create and improve habitat for wildlife, especially threatened and endangered species," said Mangun.

Protection of the federally endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker is mandated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of the Army. The

Installation's prescribed burning efforts have helped contribute to a significant increase in Fort Stewart's RCW population.



The number of potential breeding groups of RCWs has increased from 242 in 2004 to 305 in 2008. This is significant not only to natural resource managers and RCW's but to Soldiers as well. Because of the increase in the installation's RCW population, military training restrictions have been significantly reduced, and once the population reaches the recovery goal of 350 PBGs, military training restrictions related to the species can be eliminated. Fort Stewart expects to reach this goal in 2010. Another benefit of prescribed burning is the biodiversity it creates. More than one-third of all Georgia's plant species exist on the installation. Burning enhances and maintains this diversity.


The Forestry Branch's standard procedure for prescribed burning is extensive. In very simple terms, before each burn year begins, forestry fire planners write a burn prescription for each area that requires a burn. During most years, this amounts to over 200 individual prescriptions. Each prescription goes through review and analysis by other Environmental Division staff members, and finally the installation Wildland Fire Program Manager before the area is actually burned. Once approved, a prescription is carefully implemented by Forestry burn teams.

"This significant accomplishment would not be possible if it weren't for the many dedicated and skilled professionals within the Forestry Branch," Mangun said. "Special thanks are also in order for our installation and off-post partners. The Fort Stewart Fish and Wildlife Branch not only provides input to the prescriptions, but also people and equipment to help protect RCW cavity trees and other sensitive wildlife sites from being inadvertently destroyed during burns. Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security works magic with the training schedule to provide Forestry with access into training areas even during field and live-fire exercises. Finally, the Georgia Forestry Commission keeps up with our burns from a statewide perspective and provides us with mop-up assistance per our cooperative agreement if smoke becomes a problem."

Most importantly DPTMS records indicate that military units training on Fort Stewart have not lost one single day of training due to wildfires or wildfire suppression since fiscal year 2000. This is a direct result of the quality and quantity of prescribed burning conducted by Forestry.

The aggressive and extensive installation Fort Stewart prescribed burn program is truly an example of a successful win-win partnership.



FORT STEWART & HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD




Do you have a question, comment, or complaint about a service you received at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield?

If so, go to <http://ice.disa.mil> and submit a Customer Comment Card directly to the service provider manager.

All comments are confidential. The next ICE class is 8 a.m., Oct. 9 at building 627. For more information, contact Jay.m.bailey@us.army.mil



Army Suggestion Program (ASP) is a program that is for the employees. It is used to improve how the Army does business and reward people who contribute their creativity to making the Army Better.

<https://armysuggestions.army.mil>

The next class suggestion class will be held in building 627, room 11 a.m., Oct. 9.

**Check out The Frontline online at
www.stewart.army.mil**



FORT STEWART/HUNTER AAF ACAP JOB FAIR

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 • 9 AM to 3 PM
Club Stewart, 1020 Hero Road, Bldg. 405

• Sponsored by Directorate of Human Resources
 (Army Career & Alumni Program)

OVER 80 COMPANIES TO ATTEND THE JOB FAIR!

Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)
 (Retail Sales)

Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP)
 (Military Transition Services)

ACS - Army Spouse Employment Program
 (Military Spouse Employment Assistance)

Aecom (Combat Support Associates)
 (Government Defense Contractor)

American Rental Association
 (Equipment Rental Companies)

AutoZone, Incorporated
 (Leading Retailer of Aftermarket Auto Parts/Accessories)

BAE Systems
 (Global Company- Supporting defense/aerospace systems)

Bergelectric Corporation
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Bradley-Morris
 (Military Placement - Corporate America)

Burlington Coat Factory
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Carolina Handling
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Cessna Aircraft Company
 (Business Jet/General Aviation)

Charlotte, NC Fire Department
 (Public Safety - Emergency Services)

Charlotte/Mecklenburg Police Department
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Chatham County Sheriff's Office
 (Law Enforcement/County Detention)

Cherokee Sheriff's Office
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Civilian Jobs.com
 (Internet Job Ads for Military & Career Transition Services)

Coastal Transport, LLC
 (Commercial Tractor/Trailer - Flatbed)

Cobb County, GA - Sheriff's Office
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc.
 (Beverage Distribution)

Columbus, GA - Police Department
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Comcast Cable
 (Communications)

Corporate Leads
 (Career Placement Firm)

Data Path, Incorporated
 (Communications Network Solutions and Support)

Defense Support Services (DS2)
 (Defense Contractor - Facilities & Equipment Maintenance)

Dept of Homeland Security -Federal Protective Service
 (National Security)

Durham, NC - Police Department
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

DynCorp International APS -3
 (Government Contractor)

Emerging Technologies Group, USA
 (Government Contract Services)

Express Employment Professionals
 (Staffing and Employment Agency - Savannah/Ft Stewart)

Federal Bureau of Prisons - FLETC
 (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center)

Federal Correctional Institute, Jesup, Georgia
 (Federal Prison)

FedEx Ground
 (Small Package Transportation Parcel Delivery Service)

Florida Highway Patrol
 (Public Law Enforcement - State Police)

Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Inc.
 (Mining Operations)

GE Energy - Infra (Schenectady, NY)
 (Manufacturing of Wind Turbines)

General Dynamics, Information Technology
 (Information Technology Services - Simulation/Maintenance)

Georgia Air National Guard
 (Military Service - National Guard)

Georgia Department of Corrections
 (Operation of the 5th Largest Prison System in the U.S.)

Georgia Department of Labor
 (One-stop Career Center)

Georgia State Personnel Administration (Merit System)
 (Human Resource/Employment and Recruitment)

Hawk Enterprises, LLC
 (Aviation - Support - Rotary Wing Aircraft)

Hinesville, GA Police Department
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Home Depot Distribution Center, Savannah, GA
 (Distribution Center Operations)

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers - Local 26
 (Labor Union - Laborers)

ISR Group
 (DOD Contractor - Unmanned Vehicle Support)

ITT Systems, Division
 (Government Contractor)

JCB Manufacturing
 (Manufacturing)

Lear Siegler
 (Defense Contractor)

Liberty County Regional Medical Center
 (Hospital and Nursing Home - Acute and Long Term Care)

Logistic Management Resources, Inc.
 (Logistic Management Support Services for U.S. Army)

Lucas Group
 (Military Placement - Private Sector)

Manpower
 (Staffing - Permanent and Temporary)

Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Company
 (Financial Planning/Insurance)

Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
 (Public Transit)

Michell North America
 (Tire Manufacturing)

Militaryline.com
 (Free Internet Job Board for Veterans)

MPRI (an L-3 Division)
 (Defense Contractor - National Security/Law Enforcement)

New York City Police Department
 (Public Safety - Law Enforcement)

Northrup Grumman, Technical Services
 (Defense Contractor - Operates in 50 states & 20 countries)

Penske Truck Leasing
 (Full Service Truck Leasing)

Pep Boys
 (Aftermarket Retail and Service - Auto)

RLM Communications, Inc.
 (Information Technology/Assurance Training & Support)

Savannah Electric Joint Apprenticeship & Training
 (Electrical Apprenticeship)

Savannah Jobs
 (Internet Job Search)

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools
 (Public School System)

Schlumberger Global Technologies & Nexus Group
 (Oil Field Services)

Small Business Administration
 (Small Business Information and Assistance)

SNF Chemtall
 (Chemical Manufacturing)

SOAR Consulting
 (Military Placement - Nationwide -Officers & Enlisted)

South Carolina Dept of Corrections
 (State Correctional Facility Operations)

Southern Company
 (Premiere Energy Company Serving S.E. United States)

Southland Waste System
 (Waste Systems)

Sullivan Staffing
 (Industrial Staffing)

Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.
 (Equipment & Tool Rentals, Service, Sales & Parts)

Tapestry Solutions, Inc.
 (Software Support for Government & Business)

Target Distribution Center
 (Warehouse/Distribution Center Operations)

Tecta America Corporation
 (Nation's Leading Roofing Contractor)

Transportation Security Agency (TSA)
 (Protection and Security of Air Travel/Airplanes and Airports)

Troops to Teachers
 (Teaching Opportunities for Military Personnel)

Turner Security
 (Corporate Security)

Valia ES Industrial Services
 (Oil Refinery & Petrol Chemical Plant Maintenance)

Vestas - American Wind Technology
 (World's leading supplier of Wind Turbines)

Veterans Administration
 (Veteran Services and Benefit Information)

VIP Office Furniture and Supply
 (Office Furniture and Supplies)

Volvo Staffing for Tomorrow
 (Volvo & Mack Truck, Construction, Prevost Car, Penta)

Wackenhut Corporation
 (Largest Provider of Security Related Services in the U.S.)

Waffle House, Inc.
 (Restaurant Operations - 365 Days)

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
 (Retail Sales)

Werner Enterprises, Inc.
 (Premiere Transportation and Logistics Company)

WillStaff
 (Personnel Staffing)

Yancey Brothers Caterpillar
 (Caterpillar Dealership for the State of Georgia)

Prepare for Army Career Alumni Program job fair

Special to the Frontline

The Army Career and Alumni Program sponsors a job fair 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 27 at Club Stewart. This will be the 28th job fair conducted at Fort Stewart sponsored by the Directorate of Human Resources - Army Career and Alumni Program.

The fair represents one form of career transition assistance that ACAP provides to help Soldiers, Department of Defense civilians and Family members

who are leaving government service.

Between 75 and 100 employers and service providers are expected to attend the job fair though last minute additions occurred in the past. These employers are from different industry groups, which provide a wide variety of employment opportunities. If you plan to leave the military in the next year, job fairs represent an efficient way of talking to potential employers about your skills, discov-

ering what they are looking for and assessing the job market.

Normally you will not obtain a job at a job fair, but may very well be selected for further job consideration. At the last job fair, Oct. 18, 2006, employers identified more than 1500 individuals as employment prospects and reported making numerous job offers on the spot!

Here are a list of jobs that will be featured during the fair.

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio Technician

Avionics

Electronics/Fiber Optics

Wire/Telephone Installers

Repairers

Satellite Installers

Switchboard/Telecommunications

Operators/Maintainers

ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERICAL

Administrative Assistants

Secretaries

Mail Clerks

Finance Clerks

Personnel/Office/Records Clerks

TRANSPORTATION

Truck Drivers

Dispatchers

Operation Managers

Warehouse Workers/Managers

Fuel Handlers

FOOD SERVICE

Cooks

Food Service Managers

Inspectors

Food Service Workers

MECHANICS

Diesel

Power Plant

Generator

Maintenance Supervisors

Military Equipment

Armament

Manufacturing Machinery

AUTOMATION

Data Entry

Computer Operators

Peripheral Equipment Operators

Information Systems

Managers

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Excellent Source for

Recruitment at

Federal/State/County

Levels & for Commercial Security Firms

PROFESSIONAL

Instructors (JROTC/Youth)

Programs (Defense Contracts)

Teachers/Counselors

Compliance Officers

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

Material Handlers

Fork Lift Operators

Inventory/Shipping

Receiving and Distribution

Clerks, Parts Clerks

Logistics Managers

Warehouse Managers

HUMAN RESOURCES

Personnel Managers

Personnel Recruiters

Training and Development

Personnel Clerks

HEALTH CARE

Medical Assistants

X-ray Technicians

Records Clerks

Nurses/Nursing Aides

Dental Assistants

PRODUCTION

Supervisors

Quality Assurance

Chemical Operators

Machine Operators

Operation Managers

SALES

Sales Representatives

Retail Managers

CONSTRUCTIONS TRADES

Heavy Equipment Operators

Survey Operations

Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Electrical Repair/Carpenters

AVIATION

Mechanics

Helicopter Pilots

Air Traffic Control



Courtesy photo

Col. Todd Buchs, U.S. Army garrison commander presents Rebecca Pringle and Debbie Trouche with the 3rd Quarter Recycling Incentive Award, Aug. 13.

DPW announces 3rd Quarter Recycling Incentive Award

Special to the Frontline

The Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division announced the winners of the 3rd Quarter Recycling Incentive Award during the Environmental Quality Control Committee meeting, Aug. 13.

The winners were Hunter Army Airfield's Army Aviation Support Facility 3 and Fort Stewart's Company A, 224th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Both units were presented a check for \$1,000 and a plaque by Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Col. Todd Buchs, and USAG Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Durr.

The winners were chosen for their outstanding efforts in support of the Installation's Mandatory Recycling Program by creating, improving and enforcing recycling practices and participation in their respective area.

The winners of the garrison organization Honorable Mention award were Fort

Stewart's Child Development Center, building 403, and Hunter Army Airfield's GOCO Fuel. This recycling recognition was implemented earlier this year in order to acknowledge Garrison Organizations for their contributions and support for the mandatory recycling program.

Winners are chosen using the guidelines established in the Marne Recycling Inspection Checklist and Installation Mandatory Recycling Guidance Document.

The incentive program was created in an effort to improve participation in the recycling program as a means of reaching the Department of Defense 40 percent solid waste reduction mandate by fiscal year 2010.

Recyclers are asked to continue to support the program and encourage friends and fellow Soldiers to do the same because it pays to recycle.

For more information or to share ideas, call the Waste Management section at 767-8880 or 767-6573.

Ask the Judge: Caveat Emptor - watch out for tricks, scams

Sherod L. Davis, Sr.,
Legal Assistance Attorney

Q *Question: I would like to buy a used car. How can I make sure that I am being treated fairly?*

A *Answer:* First, beware of the advertising that dealerships use. The most notorious of these is known as the “bait and switch.” The dealer places an ad highlighting a specific automobile at a specific price. When a potential buyer arrives at the dealership, the dealer will inform the Soldier that the vehicle in the advertisement is no longer available, or there was an editing error on the part of the newspaper. Just when it seems that all hope is lost, the sales agent will inform the buyer that there is another car just like it available, and it will only cost “a little more money.” The advertised vehicle was the bait and the substituted vehicle was the switch. The law prohibits bait and switch tactics. Beware of the dealer who uses this technique. If they are being dishonest in their advertising, how can you be sure that they are being honest in the sale?

Q *How do I avoid buying a lemon?*

A *Answer:* The short answer is preparation and research. Many used vehicles on lots today were flooded, involved in serious accidents, or even totally wrecked in an accident. A good way to double check is to take the car to an independent mechanic. For a reasonable fee, the mechanic will subject the car to a series of tests that will reveal some of the more serious defects.

Like anything else, buyers need to do their homework. There are a number of online sites that a Soldier should visit in order to check the facts. Some services charge a fee of about \$20 and provide a fairly detailed vehicle history. Soldiers may also take advantage of a free vehicle history (carfax) report from the Army Community Service Office. The service you choose will ask for the vehicle identification number, make, model and other relevant information. At the very least, the service will tell the buyer what the car's last reported mileage is and that will go a long way to protect the Soldier from a favorite trick of some local car dealers -- the odometer roll back, which is the intentional altering of a car's odometer to reflect a lower mileage than is actually the case.

The Lemon Law typically does not cover used vehicles. A used vehicle is a vehicle that has been previously titled, regardless of the year of the vehicle. In other words, a vehicle that is purchased in the year that it was manufactured, i.e., a 2008 Nissan Titan purchased in 2008 could be considered used if it was titled to an owner prior to you purchasing it.

Q *What other research tools are available?*

A *Answer:* Equally critical is a visit to sources such as Kelly's Blue Book (www.kbb.com) to see what your prospective automobile is actually worth.

Negotiate a price that is fair and reasonable to you; never pay the asking price for the vehicle. Use the information that you learn about the vehicle and its worth to haggle with the salesperson. Or if you aren't up to it, let a reputable bank do it for you. Many banks will haggle with the dealer at no extra charge. This point leads to another tip. Try going to your own bank instead of using the dealership's financing company. Try the banks downtown, online, or one that deals exclusively with military personnel.

Many dealerships will boost the interest rate that the bank approves you for and receive a payment straight from the bank for the extra interest. For example, you have negotiated a price of \$10,000 for the vehicle and the dealership seeks financing for you through Bank A. Bank A approves you at eight percent. The dealership will charge you an extra three percent (or higher). So they will tell you that your interest rate is 11 percent and Bank A will cut a check for the dealership. You will be stuck with paying an extra three percent over the life of the loan, which translates into thousands of dollars. If you ask the dealership to seek financing on your behalf they will likely ask you, “What do you want your payments to be?” This will allow them to get a good idea of how much extra interest to charge you in addition to what interest rate the bank offers you.

Q *What other tactics should I expect?*

A *Answer:* A technique used to force buyers into a car that the dealer can't get rid of is the “spot delivery.” The buyer and salesperson will execute a sales agreement. The buyer, however, does not have the cash or financing available to pay for the car. Despite this, the dealer allows the buyer to drive off the lot with the car. The sales agreement will have a clause that says, “If the bank comes back and refuses to finance the car, the deal is off.” Sometimes the bank will contact the buyer and say that they cannot finance the vehicle. Instead of accepting that the agreement is off and letting the buyer out, the dealer may try to keep the deal alive by raising the price, interest rate, or both.

Q *What happens if the dealer is not able to find financing?*

A *Answer:* One of several outcomes may occur. In addition to raising the price or interest rate, the dealer may simply cancel the deal and ask the buyer to return the car. Alternatively, the dealer may cancel the sale but charge the buyer a rental fee of \$30 or \$40 for each day the buyer had the car. Unless, you have signed a rental agreement, any rental or use fee is inappropriate. The risk is on the dealer if they let a buyer leave without finalizing the deal. To avoid this, carefully review all of the documents before you sign them, one may be a rental agreement! A third situation buyers see is a variation on the “bait and switch.” Here, the dealer cancels the contract, but now offers the buyer an older (or less valuable) vehicle. Buyers often feel pressured into

accepting the substitute vehicle since they may not even have a ride home!

Q *Why is the interest on my car loan so high? 21 percent annual percentage rate seems like a lot!*

A *Answer:* A fact of life is that used cars come with a higher interest rate than new ones. This is due to the fact that lenders are more willing to lend money on a car that has a better chance of lasting for the entire term of the loan. Newer cars generally last longer than used ones. Another factor is that new cars come with comprehensive warranties. A vehicle with a warranty protects buyers from having large repair bills so the vehicle is less likely to be repossessed. Finally, your credit may also be a factor in the calculation of the interest rate. As a side note, before you complete a purchase of a used car, make sure that the interest rate is correct. If the interest seems too high for the APR, it probably is. There are dealerships in the area that have advertised a certain interest rate, but have incorrectly calculated it. An error like that can cost you thousands of dollars, even on a short-term loan! The Internet has many sites that will calculate the correct interest rate for you.

Q *Where should I shop for my used car?*

A *Answer:* When shopping for a used car, do not settle on searching in Hinesville or Savannah alone. Shop around. Visit online sites that specialize in finding cars. Also make sure to compare prices in the surrounding areas.

Q *What are ‘Birddogs’?*

A *Answer:* Finally, beware of the “birddogs.” This is a term used to describe an individual, who although usually is not an employee of the dealership, will find buyers and collect a finder's fee. These individuals may be fellow Soldiers who promise that they will take you to a dealer that will “take care of you.” Take care of you, they will! While the Soldier is filling out the sales contract, the “birddog” is being cut a check for \$50, \$100 or \$200. This is not only unethical but is also an illegal use of the “birddogs” military position for profit! If you are approached (especially on post and/or on duty) come see us. Keep in mind that a dealership utilizing such a technique is probably not on the level.

If you have questions about your used car purchase, come to the Legal Assistance Office and we can assist you. The Fort Stewart office is located at 976 William H. Wilson Ave. building 621. The Fort Stewart LAO can be reached by phone at 767-8809, or 767-8819. The Hunter Office is located at 638 Horace Emmitt Wilson Blvd. That office can be reached at 352-5115.



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First Army trainers prepare for 56th IBCT mobilization

Special to the Fronline

Approximately 800 observer-controller / trainers and support personnel from First Army Division East continue preparing for the arrival of the Texas National Guard 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Fort Stewart's 188th Infantry Brigade, commanded by Col. George Geczy, III is the headquarters responsible for training and preparing the 56th IBCT for deployment to Iraq this fall. The 188th, its subordinate units from Fort Stewart and Fort Gillem, and

additional First Army units plan, resource, build and conduct platoon and company sized situational training exercises for the mobilized 56th IBCT. Observer-controller / trainers review the training unit's progress and provide feedback on performance and readiness for deployment. The 4th Cavalry Brigade from Fort Knox, Ky. is part of the First Army combined brigade training team working with the 188th throughout the training event. "Our number one priority is making sure the 56th IBCT is prepared for combat operations in Iraq," said

Geczy. "We'll do this through tough, realistic training that replicates what the unit might see in Iraq." Improvised Explosive Device defense, theater specific and cultural training, security operations, and weapons ranges are included in the planned training. The Soldiers of the 188th Infantry Brigade and the 4th Cavalry Brigade are subject matter experts capable of providing the 56th IBCT with useful tactics, techniques and procedures for the unit's upcoming Iraq deployment.

BOSS

from Page 1A

Additionally, BOSS members also ensured the Soldiers' rooms were cleaned and their beds were made. "The Soldiers couldn't drive for 24 hours after returning from deployment," said BOSS President Staff Sgt. Krishna Gillis Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, who spearheaded the event. "So we made sure they didn't have to run out and get any necessary items they more than likely did not have on hand." "BOSS isn't just about leisure and recreation," Gillis continued. "We want to take care of our Soldiers." Gillis said the Soldiers appreciated the snacks the most. Though most of the 3rd Infantry Division has redeployed, BOSS members will continue to provide welcome home bags until all Soldiers have returned, said Chris Dent, Morale, Welfare and Recreation BOSS advisor. The BOSS program was initiated in 1989 and designed to improve the quality of life for Single Soldiers. "It's received new emphasis with the initiation of the Army Family Covenant," Dent said. "We want to ensure the single Soldiers realize that they too are a part of the Army Family. The Army Family Covenant addresses the whole Army Family and single Soldiers are a big part of that Family." BOSS is a venue to provide a voice for single-Soldiers. Program members get involved in recreational activities on and off the installation, give back to the community and help improve Soldiers' quality of life. "It's a program by Soldiers, for Soldiers," Dent said. "It really is a great opportunity." Dent said through BOSS, Soldiers get the opportunity to reach out to the children at local schools, visit the VA hospital and participate in events like Trees for Troops and Toys for Tots. Upcoming events hosted by BOSS include

Operation Rising Star, Sept. 11 at Rocky's. The event starts at 7 p.m. Soldiers who show support will have \$300 credit toward their unit funds, according to BOSS Vice President Staff Sgt. Phillip Phinisee. Dent added that the program is planning more trips, sporting tournaments and other activities to appeal to Soldiers. "But we need your support," he said, "in making this program a success." Currently the BOSS program is looking for volunteers to sit on one of the following committees:

1. **Publicity Sub-Committee (2 empty positions)**

Responsible for marketing through all froms of media and spreading the word about upcoming BOSS events.

2. **Finance Sub-Committee (7 empty positions)**

Overall responsible for tracking finances and collecting voulunteer hour information from the volunteer sub committee for all MWR events.

3. **Volunteer Sub-Committee (8 empty positions)**

Responsible for coordinating and colaborating with ACS and the surrounding communities for volunteer work done in the BOSS program. Also responsible for finding committed volunteers.

4. **Safety Factor Sub-committee (5 empty positions)**

Responsible for instilling the BOSS safety factor at all safety events. Providing Combat Lifesaver support. Responsible for distributing BOSS Safety Factor information and working closely with the Division safety office.

5. **Quality of Life Sub-Committee (4 empty positions)**

Responsible for addressing all of the Quality of Life issues Soldiers may face; being the subject matter experts for barracks work orders and distributing the Quality of Life worksheets and surveys.

If you are interested in joining a committee or joining BOSS, call 767-9917.

WTU

from Page 1A

In addition to the new WTU exit criteria established by the Department of the Army, Michaud said installation leaders take into consideration the Soldier's military occupational specialty and age, factors that may exacerbate an otherwise stable medical condition and warrant retention at the WTU. "If they're pending heavy medical care – multiple specialty appointments or frequent appointments – those Soldiers are not candidates to return to their units because they're not able to operate in their duty status requiring that much care," explained Capt. Angela Blair, WTU nurse case manager. "[But] if the Soldier has the capabilities to perform basic duties under the limits of a profile – but not a very restrictive profile – and the Soldier doesn't have very many medical appointments and is in the recovery phase, that's the Soldier we're looking to send back." Blair reiterated a point made by WTU Commander Lt. Col. Tyra White that every WTU Soldier is on his or her own healing timeline. She added that many Soldiers want to return to their unit, but their medical condition simply doesn't allow for it. "There's a deep camaraderie there, and they feel like, 'I'm abandoning my battle buddies,'" Blair said. "But you have to explain to them why it's important that they take the time to heal completely before they return. They don't want to be a liability to their buddies." Michaud said that some of the Soldiers currently nominated to return to their units want to go back, which he said, makes their job somewhat easier. Agreeing with Blair though, he emphasized the decision to return a Soldier to his or her unit will be based on what's in the best interest of the Soldier. If that Soldier is almost ready to go back, Michaud said that Soldier will be allowed to stay with the WTU a while longer then his or her medical record will be reviewed again during the next iteration of record reviews.

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Sign up for a Youth Sponsorship Tour

Monthly Youth Sponsorship Tours are open to youth, 4th through 12th grade at both Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The tours are a great way for youth to meet new friends and participate in fun and exciting trips on the first Saturdays of each month. Trips are open to youth registered with Child and Youth Services. To be eligible for the tour, youth need to sign up no later than the Thursday prior to each trip at the Stewart and Hunter youth centers. For more information, contact the school liaison offices at 7676533 for Stewart; or 315-6586 at Hunter.

Teen After School Program started

Registration is under way for the Middle School/Teen After School Program at Fort Stewart, building 7338 and Hunter Army Airfield, building 1289 Youth Centers. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services. The program meets after school at the Youth Center. On school holidays or half days, the program will start at noon. Parents or guardians must fill out a bus request at their child's school to have a stop at the Youth Center building. For more details, call 767-4491 at Stewart or 315-5708 Hunter.

Before, after-school program announced

Registration is under way for School Age Service before and after school program at Fort Stewart, building 6571 and Hunter Army Airfield, building 1289. The program is available for children entering the first through fifth grade. Open at 6 a.m. until the school bus picks children up and returns children. Closes at 6 p.m. Fees are based on Family income. There is no extra charge for school holidays or half days. Closed all federal holidays. Parents must fill out a bus request at their child's school to have a stop at the SAS building. Hunter transportation motor pool bus from Pulaski stops at the SAS building. Fun and educational programs, computer labs and homework help are offered. Breakfast and a snack will be served. For more details, call 767-2312 at Stewart or 315-5708 at Hunter.

Support RAB

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield is conducting a community interest survey to determine whether a Restoration Advisory Board would be supported by the local communities. If you are interested in completing the survey, have any specific questions about the survey or need more information concerning environmental investigations and cleanup activities at Stewart-Hunter, please contact Algeana Stevenson at 315-5144 or via e-mail at algeana.stevenson@us.army.mil, call for more information.

School board vacancies announced

Fort Stewart Schools have five openings for the Fort Stewart School Board. The board operates according to Department of Defense Instruction 1342.25 and is advisory to the superintendent. Any adult living in military Family housing is eligible to apply and run in the election. Parents of students enrolled in the Fort Stewart Schools are eligible to vote in the election. Nomination forms are available at the schools and should be turned in to Vickie Hollans, who is located at the school administration office, building 5605 next to Diamond School. Applications will be accepted through 3 p.m. Aug. 27. The school board election is scheduled 8 a.m. to noon, Sept. 3 at each school.

Kids cooking-class offered

Club Stewart and the Hunter Club are offering Hispanic Heritage Kids Cooking Classes this month. Come on out for an afternoon of games, crafts, and treats. Classes at Club Stewart will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7 and at the Hunter Club on Sept. 14 from 3-5 p.m. For more information, contact 368-2213 (Club Stewart) or 459-7923 (Hunter Club).

Civilian Employee Fitness Program slated

Civilian employees are invited to get into tip-top shape through the Civilian Employee Fitness Program at the Tominac Fitness Center at Hunter or the Newman Fitness Center at Stewart. The program will be held from 3-4 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from Sept. 8 to Dec. 11. It is designed to provide a comprehensive, "self-paced" fitness regimen encompassing health, well-being and physical fitness. There is no charge. For more information or to sign up, call 315-2019 at Hunter or 767-3031 at Stewart.

Come play varsity level volleyball

The Newman Fitness Center at Stewart and the Tominac Fitness Center at Hunter are looking for experienced volleyball players to start a varsity level team for men and women, as part of the Centers Power Volleyball program. The program consists of fundamental drills, advanced instruction, classroom-styled chalk talk, pick-up play, exhibition matches, leagues, tournaments and inter-service competition. These may be male, female and/or coed. For additional details, contact Jim Ling at 227-2504 or e-mail james.w.ling@us.army.mil.

Stewart

Reduce speed on Ga highways 144/119

The speed limit on Georgia highways 144 and 119 on Fort Stewart is reduced to 45 MPH through Nov. 15.

This is due to the 56th BCT training. Speed limit is strictly enforced.

Official Mail, distro center closes

The official Mail and Distribution Center, building 418, will be closed Aug. 22 for repairs. Normal operating hours will resume Aug. 25.

Legal assistance, claims closed for holiday

Fort Stewart Legal Assistance and claims will be closed from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 for the Labor Day Weekend.

Mass Choir rehearsals announced

The Liberty County Community Mass Choir will be looking for interested participants. If you would like to sing with this choir, please contact Judy Forshee at 977-5918 or email judith.forshee@us.army.mil or Ronald Calhoun at 786-5787 extension 209 or email rcalhoun@schoolofchurchmusic.org. Opportunities are also available for the Community Chorus, soloist, ensemble and quartet. Come and join this great community fellowship. The 2009 concert season begins Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2009.

Fort Stewart GC golf scramble slated

The Fort Stewart Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble will be held at Taylors Creek Golf Course on Aug. 29. Play begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. Early Bird registration deadline is Aug. 27. Cost is \$30 members/\$35 non-members (75 percent of team must be paid prior to deadline). After the deadline, the entry fee is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Cost includes tournament fee, golf car, driving range balls and two mulligans. Space is limited to the first 25 four-person teams. Participation is open to all players. For more information, call 767-2370.

Corkan recognizes expectant mothers

Corkan Family Recreation Area will recognize all expectant moms with one free admission or game during normal business hours at all locations on Labor Day, Sept. 1.

Youth Action Council Meetings

Calling all youth in grades 4-12! Here's an opportunity for you to help improve the quality of life for youth on Fort Stewart. The Youth Action Council will resume meetings starting 5 p.m. Sept. 4 at the Fort Stewart Youth Center, meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The monthly meetings will also feature training opportunities for potential youth sponsors and discussion on Youth Sponsorship topics. For more information, contact the Youth Education Support Service/School Liaison Office at 767-6533.

Hunter

School Health Screenings

Screening are 8 a.m. to noon, Aug. 23. Children ages four and older entering the Georgia school system for first time must complete a screening, consisting of hearing and vision tests, dental exams, immunizations, sports physicals. Scheduling closes Aug. 22; it make yours, call 800-652-9221.

Hunter Spouses' Sock Hop slated

Ladies, wear your poodle skirt and penny loafers to the Sept. 5 event at Hunter Club, 7 to 10 p.m. For additional information, go to www.hunterspousesclub.org or contact Erin Wallace: 308-0105 or EEK316@nc.rr.com.

PWOC conducts Fall kick off

Protestant Women of the Chapel will host a fall kick off 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Sept. 18, at Hunter Chapel. Join them for fellowship and refreshments! Child care is available. For additional information, call 315-5515 or 5111.

Savannah Marines hold Golf Classic

Sign up now for the Sept. 22 Savannah Marine's 4th annual golf classic at the Southbridge Golf Club. Fees are \$75 per player or \$300 per team. Fee includes green fees, cart and range balls. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; shotgun start at 9 a.m. The tournament benefits the 233rd U.S. Marine Corps birthday celebration. Hole sponsorships available. Call Chris Wiley at 351-0242 or (843) 263-4312 for information.

Hunter road closure announced

South Lightning Road will be closed from South Perimeter Road to Emmit Rifles Road now through 5 p.m., Aug. 30. Also, Emmit Rifles Rd. will be closed from South Lightning Road to the entrance of the parking lot behind building 1324. For more information, call Lewis Hazel at 315-5616.

Enjoy free golf at Patriots Golf Club

Members of the Wilmington Island Golf Club invite 16 to 20 Soldiers to join them on their course Aug. 30 at 12:30 p.m. for a free game of golf. All proceeds from the day's play will benefit.

To learn more about the scholarship foundation, go to www.patriotgolfdays.com. If you are interested in playing, call Jim Smith at 667-8295 or 786-7190.

Special Forces briefings held

Briefings are held noon, 2 and 5 p.m., every Wednesday at Special Forces recruiting office, building 160, Garry Owen St. or at Hunter Army Airfield every Tuesday, noon and 1 p.m. at the Hunter Education center, room 25. Physical Training tests are given 7 a.m. every Friday at Donovan Parade Field. The uniform is the Army Combat Uniform and running shoes. For more information, call 767-1400.

Storage space available

Outdoor Recreation has storage space available for boats, RVs and trailers. For more information, call 315-9554.

Smart car care classes available

Visit Hunter Auto Crafts every Friday from 6 to 7 p.m. to learn basic do it yourself automotive techniques and safety tips. The class is free! For more information, call 315-6244.

Rio Gate Construction

Expect delays at Rio Gate now through Sept. 6. Please use an alternate gate to enter or exit the installation if possible.

Learn ballroom dancing at Hunter

Want to learn to dance like the stars? You have two chances to learn how to dance at Hunter from 7:15 - 9:15 p.m. Sept. 3 and 17 at Tominac Fitness Center, building 919. Call 315-2019 for more informatin.

Leisure needs survey held for Stewart-Hunter installation

The U.S. Army Southeast Installation Management Agency will conduct a leisure needs survey at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield the week of Aug. 25-28.

The purpose of the survey, to be taken at locations such as the post exchange and commissary is to assess what types of leisure programs and facilities are needed at the installations and how well existing facilities serve the community's needs.

Active duty military, their spouses, retired military, civilian employees, and youth dependents age 12-18 will be asked to participate.

The survey will ask them to rate whether they have a need for 84 different leisure programs and activities, including things like swimming, golf, dance, martial arts, camping, fishing, auto repair, arts and crafts, playgrounds, restaurants, bowling, movies, and others.

Those who have a need for the various activities and programs will be asked to rate how well their needs are being met and whether they would prefer to participate in the activity on-post or off-post.

Participants also will be asked to rank the top priorities for improvement at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

The statistically valid survey will be conducted by the ETC Institute, a professional market research firm under contract to the Army. It will be administered to more than 1,000 people, with results that will have a margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

Fort Stewart and Hunter are joining 14 other Southeast Region Army installations participating in the survey. Survey results will influence how funding is allocated to each.

A final survey findings report is scheduled to be presented to Fort Stewart and Hunter officials in November.

For additional information or questions about the survey, contact Kathy Surges at 767-5117.

First Sergeants' Barracks Initiative

The Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Housing Office is launching a Resident Assessment Survey from Aug. 25 through Sept. 25 for all Soldiers residing in the barracks. The purpose of this survey is to get your input on the issues with your barracks in order to ensure that you truly have quality living areas.

The Resident Assessment Survey will help the installation housing division ensure your satisfaction while living in the barracks.

The housing division FSBI liaisons and area managers will distribute hardcopy surveys to all unit first sergeants and unit points of contacts should be established no later than Aug. 25.

Completing surveys can be placed in drop boxes located in each brigade area or left with your unit first sergeants, or unit POC's. We need your support and assistance for this survey to be a success.

The Fort Stewart unit barracks managers can contact Richard Halbur at 767 -5881, 767-302-0092 or email Richard.halbur@conus.army.mil.

The Hunter unit barracks managers can contact Melody Wright, at 315-6088 or 320-0080, email Melody.Wright1@conus.army.mil.

Hunter

Come to petting zoo

Come and have some hands-on fun 3 to 4:30 p.m., Aug. 29 at the BBC leasing office.

You'll get to learn about and see up close some furry, scaley, and prickly pets!

Balfour Beatty Communities

Stewart

Prepare for Yard of the Month

Make your house a home by taking

pride in your yard.
We will be selecting four winners who have excelled in keeping their yards neat and have made them stand out among

the rest. Winners will receive a \$25 American Express gift check. This is the last month we will be selecting winners.

So, get out your rakes and shovels and make sure you water your flowers! August winners will be selected and notified by Friday. Judging will be conducted 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at each Balfour Beatty Community.

Education Matters

Directorate of Human Resources

CCME scholarship opportunity

The Council of College and Military Educators offers scholarships each year to U.S. service members or their spouses who are pursuing higher education degrees. Each award is in the amount of \$500 and may be used for tuition, fees, books and other expenses. All applicants must submit the CCME scholarship application and an essay on the following topic: What has been your experience in pursuing a degree in the globalization environment of voluntary education?

Applications can be found on-line by going to www.ccmeonline.org/scholarship.asp. Any questions about eligibility should be directed to Doug Barr, dbarr@nu.edu or 619-563-7481. The deadline for applications is Sept. 17.

Savannah Tech information sessions

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain their college/certificate/diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. The college representatives will highlight a different program of study every other Tuesday, 2 p.m. in room 206, building 100, Fort Stewart. The topic for the next session Aug. 26 is auto technology. Savannah Tech's next term will be September 26 through Dec 16. Some of the classes are held at the education center, and some are held at the Savannah Tech campus on Airport Road. For more information go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact the Savannah Tech Campus in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah, at 443-5700.

New e-mail provided for counselors

Need to reach your Fort Stewart-Hunter Army education counselors? Just contact them via e-mail at stew-counselor@conus.army.mil.

VA announces online claims applications

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on July 16 that online applications are now being accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.

Effective immediately, VA will now process applications received through its online application website without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP, www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm, is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, active duty, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery. For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's website at www.va.gov or call their toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000.

Take GED enrichment courses

General Educational Development diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Savannah Technical College Adult Education Program-Liberty County and the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center.

The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. Courses are on a space available basis and the class schedule is subject to change quarterly. The choices for this quarter are 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday; 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday and Wednesday. For detailed

instructions, call 368-7322 or e-mail ccoleman@savannahtech.edu.

Free and discounted courses for spouses

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouse of military personnel a tuition waiver for the initial classroom ("in seat") course at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites. It is not necessary for the active duty member to be a Columbia College student. In addition, Columbia offers a 20 percent tuition discount for "in-seat" classes only to spouses of active duty, National Guard and Reserve military personnel. For more information on this and other spouse opportunities Columbia College provides, visit www.ccis.edu/military/spouses.asp. Then arrange to meet with an academic advisor by calling 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter.

College classes for Warriors offered

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield education centers are supporting our Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being presented by Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Additional types of courses may be added in future terms as long as interest prevails. To enroll, Warriors must sign up through the GoArmyEd portal online.

Additional enrollment steps are required for ERAU. Soldiers attached to the Fort Stewart Warrior Transition Unit will be temporarily served at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100. For more information, call 767-8331. Soldiers stationed at Hunter can contact Fay Ward at the Education Center, building 1290 or call 315-6130. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the counselors in building 100 at Stewart, 767-8331 for assistance.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday.

\$4,500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4,500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 223.

TTT - teaching seminar time change

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600.

The meeting will be scheduled for 10 a.m., Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, and Dec. 17 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at www.tttga.net and www.sttga.net or call 1-800-745-0709. Immediately following the above sessions the Armstrong Atlantic State University's Director of Teacher Education Programs will brief AASU's Master of Arts in Teaching program. This new program allows for completion of the graduate degree and initial Georgia teacher certification. For more information, contact 877-1910.

Register for ASE Certification Testing

Automotive Service Excellence certification testing will be administered at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Nov. 13, 18, and 20. The registration deadline is Sept. 9 for those testing at Hunter Army Airfield and

Sept. 15 those testing at Fort Stewart.

All Military Personnel are eligible for the ASE exams, whether they are on active duty, Reserve, and National Guard. No civilian ASE testing is provided at a DANTES test site at this time.

Soldiers should see the following individuals for ASE registration before the registration deadline. For Fort Stewart testing, contact Wendell Johnston or Olivia Penrod at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center, building 100, room 165. Call 767-9569 for more information.

For testing at the Hunter Army Airfield Army Learning Center, contact Ken Brown or Reginald Scott, building 1290, room 22. Call 315-6130 for more information at Hunter.

The first three tests are free for Soldiers - but the Soldier still pays the \$32 registration fee. If a Soldier chooses to take more than the three funded tests, those testing fees are due at the time of registration. Recertification is not paid by DANTES; Soldier pays for all recertification tests plus registration fee. Both the registration and additional test fees are due at the time of registration and are non-refundable.

Tests will begin promptly at 9 a.m. on the test days - examinees need to report at 8:45 a.m. Study materials can be obtained at www.ase.com.

Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

CES training available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or learn more information, online at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces.

Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools.

The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible.

If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor, or visit online at www.gsfc.org.

Warriors spouse scholarship slated

Central Texas College will provide free tuition for up to 30 semester hours in one year, for spouses of Purple Heart recipients. Scholarship applications are being accepted now.

To verify eligibility, qualifying spouses must present a copy of the military member's Department of Defense Form 214 or orders reflecting the award of a Purple Heart since September 2001; marriage license, Department of Defense identification card or other type of photo ID. The scholarship covers in or out-of-state tuition and mandatory fees. More information is available on the CTC Web site at www.ctcd.edu/militaryspouses.

The scholarship application will be available online and at all CTC locations; Fort Stewart, 876-4045 or Hunter, 315-4095.

In addition to tuition scholarships, CTC's textbook partner, MBS Direct, will offer free books to qualifying spouses. More information on the textbook offer is available at bookstore.mbsdirect.net/ctc.htm.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Child and Youth Program Assistant (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39 to \$12.73 per hour
Recreation Aid - \$5.85 - \$7 per hour
Operations Assistant - \$5.85 to \$8 per hour
Cook - \$8.70 per hour
Hotel Desk Clerk - \$7 to \$7.50 per hour
Cashier - \$8 per hour
Custodial Worker - \$7.72 per hour
Waiter/Waitress (Trainee) - \$7.17 to \$8.17 per hour
Food Service Worker - \$7.17 per hour
Bartender - \$8.70 per hour
Laborer - \$7.72 per hour
Recreation Assistant (Lifeguard) \$9.75 - \$10.25 per hour (Must possess nationally recognized Lifeguard,

CPR, and First Aid Certifications), Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, closing date: Aug. 29.

Laborer-CYS-Hunter Army Airfield, \$8.00, closing date: Sept. 3

Child and Youth Program Assistant with CDL-CYS-Hunter Army Airfield, \$10.39 - \$12.73, closing date: Sept. 3.

To search for these positions go to cpol.army.mil, click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement" or hit the enter key.

Did you know?

- You don't have to be a US Citizen to be employed by NAF.
- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses (SEP) can be used multiple times for employment in "flexible" status positions.
- You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds (APF).
- There is a hiring preference in NAF for Involuntarily Separated Military Members (ISM) and their eligible Family members.
- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army (under

the DOD/OPM Interchange Agreement).

- Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and State of Georgia Child Labor Laws.

- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties.

- Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to www.armymwr.biz and click on Programs for more information.

- Eligible employees who move between DOD NAF positions and APF positions in any agency can "port" certain benefits such as retirement, leave, service credit, etc.

Need job counseling or resume assistance?

Contact Army Community Services and ask for the employment readiness program manager at 767-5058.

For further information on employment opportunities, contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Job Information Center at 767-5051.

Our office is located on the second floor, room 2013A, of building 253, 55 Pony Soldier Ave. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Spotlight

Staff Sgt Sidney A Davis

Special to the Frontline

Staff Sgt. Sidney A. Davis was born and raised in Pontiac, Ill. He attended the U. S. Army's Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. as an infantryman.

He has been working with the Directorate of Emergency Services for the past 18 months as a desk sergeant. He is presently working as a physical security inspector.

Davis has been married for 17 years to his wife and dedicated to the U. S. Army for the same amount of time.

He has two children, one boy and

one girl who are both currently attending high school in Pontiac.

Davis' first duty assignment was Fort Ord, Calif. Other assignments have included Fort Lewis, Wash.; Mannheim, Germany; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Knox, Ky.; Yongsan, Korea; and Fort Campbell, Ky.

He also served as a U. S. Army recruiter in Rockford, Ill. and served one tour in Iraq.

His hobbies include watching movies and anything involving sports. He is presently working on his

Associates degree in business management.



Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sp. Danny Diaz**, Co. B, 2-3 BTB, Fort Stewart. 31314 contact Warrant Officer Pedro Flores, Co. A, 2-3 BTB, Fort Stewart, 31314, call 435-2105.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Demetrie Lott**, Co. D, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, Fort Stewart. 31314 contact 1st Lt. Daniel Griffin, HHC, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor, Fort Stewart, 31314, call 767-5277.

Reward \$2,500

A reward of \$2,500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for vandalizing and setting fire to construction equipment and a wood pile at the construction site located adjacent to New Guinea Road, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314. This incident occurred between 5 p.m., May 8 and midnight, May 9. Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality. The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon their exceptional actions regarding the information provided. Those with information are encouraged to call the CID office at 767-5030, Special Agent Nicole Noble, or the military police desk, at 767-4895.

The reward offer expires June 9, 2009. (0142-08-CID093-40471)

Army now offers funded legal education program

Special to the Frontline

The Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2009 and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

Interested officers should review Chapter 14, AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of second lieutenant through captain. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active Federal

service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test.

Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before Nov. 1. Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact the Fort Stewart Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 767-7713 for further information.

Reward \$5,000



A reward of \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for a sexual assault in Bryan Village Housing area, Fort Stewart, Ga., on or around June 8. The person is described as a white male, bald head, blue eyes, between 5 foot 10 inches and 6 feet tall and owns a brown-in-color boxer or pit bulldog.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident but not wishing to be identified will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality. The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for

information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided. Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at 767-5030. For more information, call Special Agent Nicole S. Noble, or the Military Police Desk on Fort Stewart at 767-4895, reference Case: 0199-08-C1D093-40493.

The reward offer expires July 28, 2009.

Operation signals progress within IA

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers led the way in Operation Leros, an early morning house and cache clearing operation, Aug. 5 in the Shaka 5 Region, resulting in the detention of five personnel.

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division helped support the company during the operation through aerial coverage and by providing over watch.

“We raided the different homes to find caches and to find people on the

Iraqi Army’s high value target list,” said Iraqi Army Maj. Ahmed Majeed, commander of Company D, 3rd Battalion, 31st Brigade, 8th IA Division.

The Soldiers of Co. D continue to succeed in joint operations and work hard to establish their unit as a proficient and self-sustainable company.

“It shows the insurgents that we are in charge, not them,” Majeed said. “We have taken back control of the area.”

“The purpose of the operation was to act on some intelligence that the IA had received,” said Capt. Norman Stephenson, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1/76th FA. “It also let people in the area know that the Iraqi (Security)

Forces are competent and able to secure the area.”

Soldiers from both the IA and U.S. Army met prior to the operation to gather information, said Stephenson, a native of Evans Mills, N.Y.

“We did a joint intelligence briefing with the IA, where the (Iraqi intelligence officer and U.S. Army intelligence officer) consolidated information on possible targets and insurgent activity in the area,” Stephenson said. “The IA then came up with a plan of execution on how they wanted to cordon off and search the area for the personnel who were on the wanted list.”

The IA created and led the entire operation, though Coalition forces

contributed to the intelligence phase and were present during the operation.

“By us watching in an over watch position while they execute, it does give them a little bit of extra backing,” he said. “If they go out and do these missions themselves, the people of Iraq see that their Army is capable and competent and it gives (the people) self pride.”

The IA presence in the area is clear, and improvements in the community are visible.

“There are many people coming back into the area, obviously because of improved security,” Stephenson said.

IA participates in Vanguard route clearance class

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi Army Soldiers are participating in the first Vanguard Brigade route clearance course in an effort to improve security in the Babil Province.

Soldiers from the 31st Brigade, 8th IA Division, began classes on FOB Kalsu, July 20.

The Lionclaw Academy is a four-phase course that covers route clearance basics and how to properly maintain route clearance equipment.

“The importance of the academy is to increase security capabilities and give the Iraqi citizens a safe and secure place to live,” said Lt. Col. Darryl McDowell, commander of 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division.

Prior to the creation of the Lionclaw Academy, Soldiers from 4-3 BSTB and Company E, 3rd Battalion, 7th Inf. Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, began discussing the possibility of creating a route clearance class for Iraqi Soldiers.

“We had been talking about doing some kind of Iraqi route clearance capability for a while,” said Capt.

Andrew Sanders, commander of Company E. “(This is) a great opportunity to work with our Iraqi counterpart and improve their capability as an Army with (training) they didn’t have previously.”

Discussions of a fully competent Iraqi route clearance class continued; eventually, the Soldiers of Company E took on the challenge of creating the program.

“We spent a lot of time developing the course of instruction and what it was going to look like as far as our partnership with the IA,” said Sanders, a native of Orange County, Calif. “We developed a multi-staged training program designed to teach the basics to Iraqi Soldiers.”

The exact curriculum and teaching techniques

were finalized during the planning of Phase I of the academy.

“Phase I was to get the IA familiar with the equipment and the basic improvised explosive device fundamentals, and to get training with the explosive ordnance disposal team,” said Frost. “They (were taught) about IED indicators, battle drills and how to conduct IED interrogations with the equipment.”

Phase I taught the basic principles of patrolling and mission briefings, which prepared them for Phase II, said 1st Lt. Glen Frost, Company E.

“That way, when they came to us for the partnership, they were ready to develop (missions) with our guys and were ready to begin preparing for joint patrols,” Frost added.

“First, (IA Soldiers) would come on the FOB and conduct rehearsals, and then they would conduct combined patrols with the U.S Soldiers in the lead,” Sanders said.

Phase III will focus on the IA leading operations and Coalition forces performing an advisor role.

Once completed, IA Soldiers will start Phase IV, consisting of route clearance operations by the IA Soldiers out in the local area.

“I think that is the one area that the Iraqi Security Forces haven’t really taken over,” Frost said. “They are capable of raids and cordon and search all on their own, but the biggest threat is IEDs and (explosively formed penetrators). For them to be able to have their own route clearance element focused solely on finding and destroying IEDs in the area will create maneuverability for other ISF and will help them protect the local population from IEDs.”

Iraqi Soldiers are currently attending Phase II of the course.

IA Soldiers in the southern Baghdad area are also conducting route clearance training with Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). IA capabilities continue to expand throughout the Multi-National Division – Center area of operations.

Senior diplomat visits leaders in Babil Province

Sgt. David Turner
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – A senior adviser to the U.S. ambassador to Iraq visited Babil Province Aug. 6-7, to meet with military and civilian leaders.

Gordon Gray, senior adviser on southern Iraq to Ambassador Ryan Crocker, met with U.S. military commanders as well as Iraqi Security Forces commanders and local community leaders, as part of a series of visits to all parts of southern Iraq. Gray said the purpose of his visits was to hear from provincial reconstruction team members, to learn what the security challenges are in the area, and to learn how PRTs and the military are working together.

Gray also sought the opinions and concerns of Iraqi leaders about matters

ranging from security, shortages and unemployment to upcoming elections. In addition to his visits with Soldiers and ISF commanders, Gray met with leaders in Jurf as Sahkr and Iskandariyah, where he toured an outdoor market.

Babil Province has enjoyed relative peace in recent months as ISF have established a greater presence and conducted several joint operations with Coalition forces. Maj. Gen. Fadhil Radid Khahum al-Sultani, Babil provincial director of police, gave credit for the reduction in sectarian violence and defeat of insurgent cells to the Iraqi police working closely with the Iraqi Army and CF.

“The reduction in violence did not just come as a gift,” said Fadhil.

Fadhil called for an increase in the number of IP from the current level of just under 12,000 to 14,000, saying more

police stations, weapons and equipment are also needed in Babil.

Others cited the Sons of Iraq program as a major influence in recent security gains. Of concern to many local leaders, however, is the issue of how to transition members of the program into the ISF.

Sheikh Hameed, SoI leader of Jurf as Sakhr nahia, said promises were made by CF commanders and the Government of Iraq to hire SoI into the IA and IP, and though many SoI have been hired in other provinces, progress has been non-existent so far in Babil.

Lt. Col. Timothy Newsome, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, said that CF have assisted the SoI by submitting more than 3,000 applications to the GoI.

“To date we haven’t had a single SoI

member hired into the IA or IP – not Shia, not Sunni, not a single one,” said Newsome.

“The law regarding the SoI is one law,” said Hameed. “The SoI members keep demanding (ISF jobs) because that will solve the problem with unemployment.”

“I think it makes sense to (bring SoI into the ISF) because it’s a force for stability,” said Gray. “The employment advantages are obvious, but also, if you have volunteers, that only strengthens the security forces.”

The foremost topic in meetings was upcoming elections. With the Government of Iraq unable to set a date for the next election, Gray said it is important for local leaders to encourage participation when the election does take place. Holding elections soon and having all groups participate are crucial for political progress, he said.

This Week on Marne Television

Channel 16 on Stewart
Channel 7 on Hunter*

*Sprint customers on Hunter have to disconnect their cable box to tune in Marne TV.

The Marne Report runs Friday through Aug. 29. Programs are subject to change.

Midnight	3 Around Rock	11:30 a.m.	3 Around Rock
	Driving Marne Safe		Marne Vet Pets
12:30 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety		Marne Vet Pets
1 a.m.	Marne Vet Pets	Noon	Marne Report
1:30 a.m.	Community Events	12:30 p.m.	Marne Reintegration
2 a.m.	Community Events	1 p.m.	Community Events
2:30 a.m.	Marne Reintegration	3 p.m.	Battleground
3 a.m.	Community Events		The American Veteran (Monday)
3:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe	3:30 p.m.	Community Events
	Community Events	5:30 p.m.	Marne Report
4 a.m.	Community Events	6 p.m.	Community Events
5:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe	6:30 p.m.	Grill Sergeant (Tuesday)
	Community Events	7:30 p.m.	Marne Vet Pets
6 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety	8 p.m.	Community Events
6:30 a.m.	Community Events	8:30 p.m.	Community Events
	Fit for Duty		Marne Chat (Monday, Wednesday)
7 a.m.	Jake's Body	9 p.m.	Marne Report
7:30 a.m.	3 Around Rock; Marne Vet Pets	9:30 p.m.	Community Events
			The American Veteran (Monday)
8 a.m.	Marne Report		Ed Matters (Tuesday, Friday)
8:30 a.m.	Driving Marne Safe	10 p.m.	3 Around Rock
	Community Events	10:30 p.m.	Driving Marne Safe
9 a.m.	Motorcycle Safety	11 p.m.	Marne Reintegration
9:30 a.m.	Community Events	11:30 p.m.	Marne Report

This week's Marne Report

- Voting Information
- Suicide Prevention
- Women's Equality
- Severe Weather
- IRT
- Marne Vet Pets
- Hunter Highlights
- Redeployment
- Safety
- Peanut Fest
- Town Hall Meeting
- Change of
Commands

STAR

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“I knew it was bad,” said Pixler. “Even from inside the vehicle, I could tell, without seeing a thing, that the blast had disabled the vehicle. At the time, I didn’t feel any pain. I was just trying to figure out how bad it was.”

Pixler climbed out of the crippled vehicle and saw Zamarripa running toward him through the immense dust cloud that still hung in the air.

“He was the first one to us,” said Pixler. “He was in the second vehicle behind us and was there within just a few moments after it happened.”

As Zamarripa pulled the injured driver out and started coordinating to secure the site, Pixler limped back to the convoy and started reporting what had happened to “Hardrock” headquarters.

Moments after the attack, insurgents began to fire on Zamarripa and his Soldiers with accurate small arms fire.

“At that point, I was just reacting,” Zamarripa said. “I just got everyone behind the vehicles for cover and started firing back. To be honest, I only noticed two of the bullets that landed close, but the guys said it was a lot more than that. I just reacted. When stuff like that is happening, you just flip the switch and go on auto-pilot. We had taken fire before, so everyone knew what to do. I just happened to be there.

Pixler said Zamarripa did much more than he described.

“Sgt. Zamarripa was everywhere after the attack,” Pixler said. “He helped the injured get to the medic. He positioned the vehicles in the convoy to secure the IED site. He helped get all of the Soldiers providing security out of the way of sniper fire and coordinated a counter attack. He got our gun trucks into the fight. His actions freed me up to call up what was going on and get us air support. His leadership allowed me to direct the fight. Without his actions, it would have been a lot more difficult.”

First Sergeant Peter Black remembers the day vividly.

“We had received a report when they were first attacked, and we were all by the radio waiting for information,” said Black, the acting first sergeant of Co. A at the time. “I had a bad feeling because we didn’t hear anything for about five minutes after the initial call. I felt really help-

less there waiting for the call. Those were my guys out there and I was just praying that no one was hurt. When the call came that they had three casualties we spun up as many Soldiers as we could and got out there to them.

Black had been the platoon sergeant just a few weeks before the attack. He explained that the “Earth Pigs” of 3rd platoon are different than many of the platoons in the 3rd Heavy Brigade combat Team.

“The Pigs are a special group,” said Black. “Most of the platoon served together in our last deployment. We were a tight-knit, experienced group. This wasn’t their first time being attacked. I knew they would be handling whatever was going on out there, but I had to get out there to them.”

As help was coming to them, the Earth Pigs were in a fierce fight. Enemy combatants used small arms fire, machine gun fire and mortars in attempt to kill them.

As everything was happening, Pixler remained calm and coordinated attack aviation as the third platoon’s medic was assessing him.

“We were on a path that was between a farm and a graveyard, so we couldn’t just open up like we normally would have,” Pixler said. “I directed the Apaches to use strafing gun runs and got the enemy off us. It was intense, but I knew we had already lost three guys and was determined not to lose more.”

Zamarripa was quick to point out what Pixler did, despite being injured, was one of the key reasons the enemy attack didn’t hurt more Soldiers.

“He maintained his composure despite being injured,” said Zamarripa. “At the time, we thought his ankle and arm were broken. It looked that bad, but he stepped up to the plate and saved lives that day. The guy had a serious concussion, but still maintained all the important information and got it out over the radio. The guy couldn’t tell the medic what day it was when he was asked, but he pushed through. There wasn’t a second that he choked up or



Spc. Ben Hutto

Capt. Ross Pixler, the executive officer of Co. B, 1/15th Inf., talks on the radio during a combat patrol in the Mada’in Qada. Pixler received the Silver Star medal for his action during an ambush on his platoon Oct. 30, 2007. Pixler, who was a platoon leader for 3rd platoon, Company A, 1/15 Inf. Regt. At the time, Pixler helped coordinate attack aviation despite being injured after his Bradley was damaged during an IED attack.

forgot what to do. ”

When help finally arrived, Pixler and his two injured soldiers were quickly put into another Bradley Fighting Vehicle and sent back to Combat Outpost Cahill for treatment.

A few minutes into the ride back, that Bradley was hit by another IED attack. The attack, while not fatal, did disable the vehicle and forced Pixler and his Soldiers to hold out for help to arrive.

“It was tough,” said Pixler. “I think at that point, we were all just wondering when it would end. We just held on until help arrived and made it back home. We were all hurt, but what was really hurting us was knowing we lost three of our guys. It’s tough. As a leader, you take it hard after everything is over. I figured I had the rest of the deployment to work through it. I just wanted to take care of the Soldiers I still had and make sure I was doing my part to get us home safely.”

Both men downplay what they did for

their Soldiers and praise the men they serve with.

“When the worst happened, our guys stepped up and reacted in the best way,” said Pixler. “We lost brothers, but they stayed calm and collected and reacted like they were supposed to. Whether they received medals or not, our Soldiers reacted the best way possible. The way they reacted that day brought honor upon themselves, our fallen comrades and our platoon. Those guys are the real heroes in all this.”

Black isn’t surprised by either Soldier’s modesty. Having served with both men, he said that neither looks for the spotlight.

“It was a bad day, but good results came from some good people,” Black said.

“Both of them will never try to take the credit they deserve. That is part of the reason men want to serve with them, and it’s part of the reason they deserve the awards they received.”

VISIT

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“From a policy perspective, we don’t want to see any delay,” said Gray. “Iraq is a new enough democracy that they need practice (in elections). Another reason is we had seen (in 2005) the Sunnis sit out the elections, so it’s important that this go around they participate, and that all of the people of Iraq participate.”

Newsome suggested that some ordinary Iraqis may become disillusioned in the democratic process, as some candidates voted into office in the last election have been unable to provide services to citizens quickly enough.

Gray said that citizens may vote against some incumbents in parliament if they feel that services such as electricity and security are insufficient.

“My very strong impression, not just from this trip but in other visits, is that people are dissatisfied with the performance of the local governments and want to address that through the elections,” said Gray.

“Part of (voter turnout) will depend on the quality of the candidates. If they are attractive candidates with attractive platforms, it will lead to a greater voter turnout,” said Gray.

One way of encouraging higher turnouts, said Gray, may be the involvement of tribal leaders in helping to put forth candidates who represent local citizens’ interests. Candidates affiliated with tribes, if elected, could form a loose coalition to strengthen their cause, he said. In meetings with local sheikhs, he urged them to use their influence as community leaders, as they did in organizing Sol

groups, by becoming political leaders as well.

Gray also met with members of the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team, a U.S. Department of State group that works with the military to improve Iraq’s infrastructure and governance with programs ranging from agricultural assistance to the forming of town councils. Gray said that close cooperation between diplomats and the military will pay dividends not just in Iraq, but serve as a model for future operations.

“There is so much overlap in finding solutions to problems, it’s no longer as discrete as it once was,” said Gray, referring to the close relationship between the military and Dept. of State. “Civil-military or diplomatic-military cooperation is essential, and it’s the wave of the future.”

Several programs that have been successful in Babil Province, such as initiatives to help local fish farmers, may be easily replicated in other parts of the country, Gray said.

While he praised the efforts of PRTs, Gray added that more needs to be done to involve the GoI in reconstruction projects.

“My sense is that the GoI is not spending money quickly,” he said. “I would think there would be more effort to fund programs.”

While acknowledging that the GoI currently has a huge budget surplus, he added, “It’s always a danger to analyze things in the Middle East using America as a context.”



Sgt. David Turner

Gordon Gray, senior adviser on southern Iraq to the U.S. ambassador, meets with Sheikh Hammed, Sons of Iraq leader of Jurf as Sahkr nahia, Aug 6.